

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1-22 have been rejected.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 10, 16, 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement due to the phrase "joint print job."

Applicant has removed the phrase "joint print job." Applicant has clarified the claims by adding the term "entire print job" that is used in the specification page 3, line 24 where the specification states "[e]ach printer then receives the entire print job."

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4, 9-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Spohn et al. (JP 411296333A).

As discussed with the Examiner in a telephone interview on March 8, 2005, parallel printing is completely different than multicasting. When multicasting is used, each print receives the entire print job (see page 3 of the present specification, line 24.) In contrast, when parallel printing is used, each printer only receives a job segment (a portion of the print job) (see Spohn, paragraph 22, sentences 1 and 2.) Another difference between parallel printing of Spohn and multicasting is that in parallel printing of Spohn each job segment must be transmitting to each device individually (see paragraph 22 of Spohn) resulting in multiple transmissions, which is believed to take longer than multicasting a print job which comprises only one transmission. Thus Spohn does not disclose multicasting.

Spohn does not anticipate claim 1 at least because Spohn does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Spohn does not teach the element of multicasting. Parallel printing in Spohn is not multicasting at least because in Spohn a print job is decomposed into segments and each printer receives only its respective segment. To clarify the meaning of the multicasting feature, the applicant has amended claim 1 in several ways. First, the applicant has clarified that the entire print job is multicast, which is not disclosed in Spohn. Second, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that each of the at least two separate printers receives the entire print job, which is not disclosed in Spohn. Third, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the print job comprises routing information comprising *a list of* printer identifiers (plural) and the assigned number of documents for each printer (see page 5 of the present specification, lines 1-5.) Spohn does not disclose routing information comprising a list of printer identifiers because each segment includes only the printer

information specifying which single printer the segment is being sent to. Information about the single printer is not a list of printer identifiers. Thus it should be clear that parallel printing does not disclose the multicasting element. At least because Spohn does not teach multicasting, and for the many other reasons mentioned, Spohn does not teach each and every element of claim 1. Claim 1 should be allowed. Claims 4 and 9 are dependent on claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reason as claim 1.

Claim 10 should be allowed for at least similar reasons as claim 1. Claims 11-15 are dependant on claim 10 and should be allowed for at least the same reason as claim 10.

Claim 16 should be allowed for at least similar reasons as claim 1. Claims 17-20 are dependant on claim 16 and should be allowed for at least the same reason as claim 16.

Claim 20 should be allowed for at least similar reasons as claim 1. Claim 21 should be allowed at least because it is dependent on claim 1 and because it includes the feature of receiving the *entire* print job at one of the at least two printers. Spohn teaches receiving only a segment of the print job at a printer and thus does not teach the element of receiving the *entire* print job at one of the at least two printers.

Claim 22 should be allowed for at least similar reasons as claim 1.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Spohn as described in claim 1 above, and in view of Yokoyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,166,826).

Claim 1 should be allowed for the same reasons previously discussed. Yokoyama does not cure the deficiency of Spohn to disclose multicasting. Claims 2, 3 and 5-8 are dependent on claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reason.

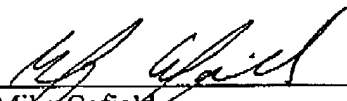
Conclusion

Allowance of all claims is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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